CLANNINICK CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:

Date: March 25/03

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Date: March 31/03

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CLANNINICK CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Purpose Statement

Ecological reserves are areas selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The key role of ecological reserves is to contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. All consumptive resource uses and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited. Research and educational activities may be carried out but only under permit.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Clanninick Creek Ecological Reserve is to preserve a small but exceptional alluvial growing site for a stand of old growth Sitka spruce. The old growth Sitka spruce trees reach 2.5 to 3 metres in diameter and 75 metres in height. There are about 35 such large trees as well as smaller ones. The excellent growth is thought to be as a result of base-rich parent materials developed from volcanic rocks. The ecological reserve is situated on the floor of a glaciated creek valley at the western edge of the Vancouver Island Ranges, 2.5 kilometres inland from the ocean, near Kyuquot Sound.

Clanninick Creek itself has a gravel bottom with occasional large boulders, and the reach through the ecological reserve is about one kilometre in length, and is a single channel of low gradient with little meander, frequent shaded pools, and one low waterfall. This shaded creek provides spawning habitat for small numbers of chinook and pink salmon, and significant runs of coho and chum salmon.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Impact of adjacent logging surrounding the ecological reserve, isolating it as a narrow forested island and resulting in severe blow-down and possible degraded water quality and flow regime impacting the spawning salmon	➢ Work with Ministry of Forests and industry to take ecological reserve values into consideration during forest development. ➢ Ensure boundary signs are visible. ➢ Develop a better defined boundary description. ➢ Monitor effects of adjacent use, patrol to ensure boundary is respected. ➢ Recruit a volunteer ecological reserve warden and develop a formal monitoring program.
Water supply for community adjacent to ecological reserve	➢ Work with community to ensure activity does not impact the ecological reserves values.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Clanninick Creek Ecological Reserve makes a very minimal contribution (0.03%) to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Very minimal contribution (0.07%) to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented at 19.3%
Special Features	☒	Old growth Sitka spruce, creek habitat for spawning salmon
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Chinook and coho salmon are yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S4)
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Old growth forests, "island" ecology i.e. impact of logging on small remnants

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☐	Not Applicable
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	☐	Not Applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Offsite interpretation of large trees

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☐	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of ecological reserves on Vancouver Island
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	

Vulnerability	☒	Small remnant extremely vulnerable to adjacent logging; small size limits the ecological integrity
Relationship to other Strategies	☐	Not Applicable

Area: 37 hectares

Date of establishment: June 24, 1976